

### **III. MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **A. Management Philosophy**

The primary purpose of NRCAs is to protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems and habitat for endangered, threatened and sensitive plants and animals while providing opportunities for environmental education and low impact public use. Areas with multiple features, such as geologic and scenic areas, cultural resources and threatened sites, are given priority.

As well as addressing the content and administration of management plans at the site level, the NRCA Statewide Management Plan provides policy guidance for the selection and evaluation of appropriate management priorities for individual NRCAs, with the recognition that the opportunities, constraints, and conservation needs of each NRCA vary, and that management philosophy should reflect the uniqueness of each area.

The Table Mountain NRCA provides a unique combination of natural resources, scenic features, and opportunity for low-impact environmental education and public use. The management plan for the site encompasses these values, and provides specific direction for their management within the Table Mountain NRCA

#### **B. Management Goals and Objectives**

The following management goals outline the broader vision for Table Mountain NRCA. They provide the NRCA-wide philosophy that will guide the overall management of the NRCA. The goals are drawn from provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act in RCW Title 79, and from the program purpose as outlined in the NRCA Statewide Management Plan.

The objectives, as well as the strategies set forth later within this management plan, are the result of resource research, site analysis and recommendations, provisions of the Statewide Management Plan, and information drawn from comments during the planning process.

#### **General Management Objectives**

Following each management goal, specific objectives are provided.

#### **Goal One: Maintain, enhance and restore ecological systems**

##### ***MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:***

- Conserve and protect the critical features the NRCA was designated to protect.
- Minimize the introduction and spread of non-native species and potentially remove non-native species.
- Allow natural ecological and physical processes to predominate unless they threaten the

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continued existence of the primary features that the conservation area was intended to protect.

- Restore areas where ecosystem quality is degraded through impacts such as erosion, non-native species invasion, or other processes and activities.

### **Goal Two: Maintain or provide habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive (TES) plant and animal species**

#### *MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:*

- Preserve rare landscape elements, critical habitats and associated species.
- Maintain, enhance or restore habitats for Threatened and Endangered plant and animal species as required by state and federal laws.
- Protect essential and valuable wildlife habitat to facilitate natural biological diversity, reduce fragmentation of genetic resources and reduce geographic isolation of ecosystems.
- Designate critical species, elements and habitats as sensitive areas under this plan.

### **Goal Three: Maintain scenic landscapes**

#### *MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:*

- Design public use sites and facilities so as to not detract from the scenic beauty of the site.
- Plan management activities and site development to minimize visual impacts as viewed from surrounding areas.

### **Goal Four: Protect cultural resources**

#### *MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:*

- Protect cultural and historic resources in the NRCA in consultation with local tribes, with specific emphasis on protection of tribal heritage resources and historic resources.
- Manage historical resources for conservation and protection.

### **Goal Five: Enhance opportunities for environmental education**

#### *MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:*

- Using interpretive signs, foster a broader understanding of Table Mountain NRCA as a site that protects Washington's ecological, cultural and geological heritage.

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- Proactively educate users about their role as stewards of the natural features of the site.
- Develop environmental education opportunities where such activities do not diminish ecosystem quality and natural site characteristics.
- Where possible, incorporate educational programs into site restoration efforts.
- Promote opportunities for Table Mountain NRCA to be used as a research site for educational institutions.
- Encourage research projects that will provide information about, or that will help manage, the rare species and communities that the area is intended to protect.
- Promote conservation goals by providing opportunities for site stewardship.
- Present use restrictions and regulations within the context of environmental education.

### **Goal Six: Provide opportunities for low-impact public use**

#### *MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES*

- Provide low-impact public use where use levels and activities do not impact the protected resources of the NRCA, or diminish ecosystem quality and natural site characteristics.
- Maintain, enhance, relocate, abandon, or restore degraded or dangerous areas of the trail system to provide for safe, low-impact public use opportunities while protecting resources.